GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4818
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
CHECK ON IMPORT OF CHINESE MOBILE HANDSETS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese mobile handsets are flooding into the Indian markets;

(b) if so, whether the above handsets do not have Unique Identification Number or IMEI with the result they are not traceable;;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these sets will not become a security threat as these may be used by terrorists or anti-social elements for anti-social activities in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken /being taken by the Government to prevent import of such mobile sets?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Sir, there are reports that mobile handsets manufactured in China are available in India.

(b) Sir, some of the low cost Chinese handsets are reported to be without Unique Identification or IMEI.

(c) to (e) Sir, some of the mobile networks are reported to have subscribers using such handsets. However, verification of subscribers is done before provision of mobile connections. Generally, a target subscriber is tracked by the mobile number and therefore absence of IMEI does not prevent tracking of anti-social elements.

(f) At present, import of new mobile handsets is freely allowed into the country.